

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 573

Calling on the United States Government and the international community to support the successful transition from conflict to sustainable peace in Uganda.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2006

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Calling on the United States Government and the international community to support the successful transition from conflict to sustainable peace in Uganda.

Whereas, for nearly 2 decades, the Government of Uganda has been engaged in a conflict with the Lord's Resistance Army (referred to in this preamble as the "LRA") that has resulted in—

(1) the deaths of approximately 200,000 individuals from violence and disease; and

(2) the displacement of more than 1,600,000 individuals from the northern and eastern regions of Uganda;

Whereas more than half of those internally-displaced individuals are under the age of 15, and 95 percent of those in-

dividuals live in absolute poverty in camps where they face malnutrition, high rates of AIDS and malaria, and egregious abuses of their human rights;

Whereas the LRA has used brutal tactics during that conflict, including the abduction and abuse of more than 25,000 children who the organization forces to attack, rape, and murder members of their families and communities on behalf of the LRA;

Whereas continued instability and a lack of security in the northern region of Uganda has severely hindered the delivery of sufficient humanitarian assistance and services to individuals who have been displaced or otherwise negatively affected by that conflict;

Whereas spillover from the war in the northern region of Uganda have had negative consequences in the neighboring countries of Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Whereas a successful transition to sustainable peace in the northern region of Uganda and throughout the country will depend in large part on a coordinated and comprehensive effort by the Government of Uganda, regional partners, and the international community to create new social, economic, and political opportunities for the citizens of Uganda who are affected by that conflict;

Whereas a sustainable political resolution to that conflict must include a range of locally and nationally driven reconciliation efforts that will require the endorsement and involvement of all parties to the conflict, as well as support from the international community;

Whereas the 2005 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, published by the Department of State, relating to

the Government of Uganda indicated that the “security forces committed unlawful killings...and were responsible for deaths as a result of torture” along with other “serious problems”, including repression of political opposition, official impunity, and violence against women and children;

Whereas, in the Northern Uganda Crisis Response Act (Public Law 108–283; 118 Stat. 912), the Senate—

(1) declared its support for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in the northern and eastern regions of Uganda; and

(2) called for the United States and the international community to assist in rehabilitation, reconstruction, and demobilization efforts; and

Whereas the cessation of hostilities agreement, that was mediated by the Government of Southern Sudan and signed by representatives of the Government of Uganda and the LRA on August 20, 2006—

(1) required both parties to cease all hostile military and media offensives; and

(2) asked the Sudanese People’s Liberation Army to facilitate the safe assembly of LRA fighters in designated areas for the duration of the peace talks: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) commends the delegates from the Govern-
3 ment of Uganda and the Lord’s Resistance Army for
4 agreeing to a cessation of hostilities for the first
5 time in the 20 years of that devastating conflict;

1 (2) recognizes the leadership role that the Gov-
2 ernment of Southern Sudan played in mediating
3 that cessation of hostilities and establishing a frame-
4 work within which a lasting peace to that conflict
5 could be achieved;

6 (3) emphasizes the importance of a complete
7 implementation of the cessation of hostilities agree-
8 ment by all parties to maintain progress towards a
9 permanent resolution of that conflict;

10 (4) expresses the support of the citizens of the
11 United States for the people of Uganda who have
12 endured decades of violence as a result of that con-
13 flict;

14 (5) entreats all parties to address issues of ac-
15 countability and impunity for war crimes and crimes
16 against humanity, and to support broader national
17 reconciliation efforts;

18 (6) strongly encourages the Government of
19 Uganda to improve the professionalism of Ugandan
20 military personnel currently stationed in the north-
21 ern and eastern regions of Uganda, with an empha-
22 sis on enhancing respect for human rights, account-
23 ability for abuses, and effective protection of civil-
24 ians;

1 (7) urges the Government of Uganda to follow
2 through and augment its resettlement plan by—

3 (A) expanding social services;

4 (B) deploying professional civil servants;

5 and

6 (C) developing the legal, political, and se-
7 curity infrastructure—

8 (i) necessary to facilitate the freedom
9 of movement of civilians to their homes,
10 land, and areas within and around camps;
11 and

12 (ii) essential to fulfill the needs of re-
13 turnees and former combatants; and

14 (8) calls on the United States Department of
15 State and the United States Agency for Inter-
16 national Development, as well as the international
17 community—

18 (A) to provide adequate and coordinated
19 humanitarian assistance through nongovern-
20 mental organizations to the individuals and
21 areas most affected by that conflict;

22 (B) to, while providing humanitarian as-
23 sistance, pay particular attention to women and
24 children who have been victimized; and

25 (C) to provide—

- 1 (i) sufficient technical assistance for
2 the demobilization and reintegration of
3 rebel combatants and abductees;
- 4 (ii) both financial and technical sup-
5 port for reconciliation and reconstruction
6 efforts; and
- 7 (iii) diplomatic and logistical support
8 for the cessation of hostilities agreement
9 and subsequent progress towards a sus-
10 tainable peace in Uganda.

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